

Application No. 10/749,368
Response dated January 10, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 12, 2006

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Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A disposable garment, the disposable garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and including a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that connects the front waist region and the back waist region, two longitudinal side edges and two lateral waist edges, the disposable garment further comprising:

an outer layer, wherein the outer layer has an inner surface and an outer surface;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an inner surface, an outer surface and an elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer; and

wherein the outer surface of the outer layer in the front waist region includes a fastener located laterally inward of each longitudinal side edge, the fastener adapted to engage into the elastic inner layer in the back waist region and the inner surface of the elastic inner layer in the back waist region includes a fastener located laterally inward of each longitudinal side edge, the fastener adapted to engage into the outer surface of the outer layer in the front waist region.

2. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter.

3. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is extensible.

4. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is elastic.

5. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable.

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6. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is liquid permeable.
7. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has one or more pleats.
8. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in the longitudinal direction of the disposable garment.
9. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in the lateral direction of the disposable garment.
10. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction of the disposable garment.
11. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.
12. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.
13. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment.
14. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.
15. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

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16. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

17. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal side edges include a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

18. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is stretchable and the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer retraction value and the outer layer has an outer layer retraction value that is less than the elastic inner layer retraction value.

19. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the front waist region fastener has a crotch-to-fastener angle equal to or greater than 45 degrees.

20. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the front waist region has a front center panel length of equal to or less than 6 inches.

21. (original) The disposable garment of claim 20, wherein the front waist region fastener has a length equal to or less than the front center panel length.

22. (previously presented) A disposable absorbent garment, the disposable absorbent garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and including a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that connects the front waist region and the back waist region, two longitudinal side edges and two lateral waist edges, the disposable absorbent garment further comprising:

an outer layer, wherein the outer layer has an inner surface and an outer surface;

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an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an inner surface, an outer surface and an elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer;

wherein the outer surface of the outer layer in the front waist region includes a fastener located laterally inward of each longitudinal side edge, the fastener adapted to engage into the elastic inner layer in the back waist region and the inner surface of the elastic inner layer in the back waist region includes a fastener located laterally inward of each longitudinal side edge, the fastener adapted to engage into the outer surface of the outer layer in the front waist region; and

an absorbent assembly positioned between the outer layer and the elastic inner layer, wherein the absorbent assembly includes a topsheet layer, a core layer and a barrier layer.

23. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter.

24. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the outer layer is extensible.

25. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the outer layer is elastic.

26. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable.

27. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the outer layer is liquid permeable.

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28. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the outer layer has one or more pleats.

29. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in the longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

30. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

31. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

32. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

33. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

34. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable absorbent garment.

35. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.

36. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

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37. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

38. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the longitudinal side edges include a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

39. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the outer layer is stretchable and the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer retraction value and the outer layer has an outer layer retraction value that is less than the elastic inner layer retraction value.

40. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the front waist region fastener has a crotch-to-fastener angle equal to or greater than 45 degrees.

41. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 22, wherein the front waist region has a front center panel length of equal to or less than 6 inches.

42. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 41, wherein the front waist region fastener has a length equal to or less than the front center panel length.

43. (previously presented) A disposable garment, the disposable garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and including a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that connects the front waist region and the back waist region, two longitudinal side edges and two lateral waist edges the disposable garment further comprising:

an outer layer;

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an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer;

a front ear portion bonded to each longitudinal side edge in the front waist region, wherein the front ear portion has an elastic inner layer surface and an outer layer surface, and wherein the front ear portion comprises a fastener on the outer layer surface, the fastener adapted to engage into the elastic inner layer in the back waist region; and

a back ear portion bonded to each longitudinal side edge in the back waist region, wherein the back ear portion has an elastic inner layer surface and an outer layer surface, and wherein the back ear portion comprises a fastener on the elastic inner layer surface, the fastener adapted to engage into the outer layer in the front waist region.

44. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter.

45. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the outer layer is extensible.

46. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the outer layer is elastic.

47. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable.

48. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the outer layer is liquid permeable.

49. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the outer layer has one or more pleats.

50. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in the longitudinal direction of the disposable garment.

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51. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in the lateral direction of the disposable garment.

52. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction of the disposable garment.

53. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

54. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

55. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment.

56. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.

57. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

58. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

59. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the longitudinal side edges include a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

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60. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the outer layer is stretchable and the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer retraction value and the outer layer has an outer layer retraction value that is less than the elastic inner layer retraction value.

61. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the front ear portion fastener has a crotch-to-fastener angle equal to or greater than 45 degrees.

62. (original) The disposable garment of claim 43, wherein the front waist region has a front center panel length of equal to or less than 6 inches.

63. (original) The disposable garment of claim 62, wherein the front ear portion fastener has a length equal to or less than the front center panel length.

64. (previously presented) A disposable garment, the disposable garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and including a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that connects the front waist region and the back waist region, two longitudinal side edges and two lateral waist edges, the disposable garment further comprising:

an outer layer, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter, and wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter, and wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction;

wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter with a plurality of ultrasonic bonds;

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wherein the longitudinal side edges include a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 20 to 40;

a front ear portion bonded to each longitudinal side edge in the front waist region, wherein the front ear portion has an elastic inner layer surface and an outer layer surface, and wherein the front ear portion comprises a fastener on the outer layer surface, the fastener adapted to engage into the elastic inner layer in the back waist region; and

a back ear portion bonded to each longitudinal side edge in the back waist region, wherein the back ear portion has an elastic inner layer surface and an outer layer surface, and wherein the back ear portion comprises a fastener on the elastic inner layer surface, the fastener adapted to engage into the outer layer in the front waist region.